

Collaborative Writing for Research and Education Using Web2 Tools

Dr. Samir Alghadhban
EE Department

Try Email for :

- Collecting inputs or data from several parties
- Collaborating in writing a single document
- Synchronizing several contributions by several authors.
- Fill and Re-Send Syndrome



The Solution is Web2 Tools:

- **Web 1:** Webmasters upload information to the server and site visitors are just **passive** viewers.
- **Web 2:** Web applications facilitate information sharing, collaboration, adding and editing contents by the users (**active contribution**)
- **Looking for students centered education?**
Web2 tools are a must

Web 2 Tools

- Wikis
- Blogs
- Social Networks
- Social Bookmarking
- Video Sharing
- Slide Sharing

What are they?



Wiki: a website that allows multiple users to create, modify and organize web page content in a collaborative manner

Blog: a shared on-line journal where people can post diary entries about their personal experiences, interests, and hobbies



Success Stories



New features Log in / create account

Article **Discussion**

Read

View source

View history

Search



Wikipedia

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For Wikipedia's non-encyclopedic visitor introduction, see [Wikipedia:About](#).

Wikipedia is a free,^[3] web-based, collaborative, multilingual encyclopedia project supported by the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation. Its 16 million articles (over 3.4 million in English) have been written collaboratively by volunteers around the world, and almost all of its articles can be edited by anyone with access to the site.^[4] Wikipedia was launched in 2001 by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger^[5] and is currently the largest and most popular general reference work on the Internet,^{[2][6][7][8]} ranked 7th among all websites on Alexa.^[9]

The name *Wikipedia* (pronounced /ˌwɪkɪˈpiːdi.ə/ or /ˌwɪkiˈpiːdi.ə/ *WIK-i-PEE-dee-ə*) was coined by Larry Sanger^[10] and is a portmanteau from *wiki* (a technology for creating collaborative websites, from the Hawaiian word *wiki*, meaning "quick") and *encyclopedia*.

Although the policies of Wikipedia strongly espouse verifiability and a neutral point of view, critics of Wikipedia accuse it of systemic bias and inconsistencies (including undue weight given to popular culture),^[11] and allege that it favors consensus over credentials in its editorial processes.^[12] Its reliability and accuracy are also targeted.^[13] Other criticisms center on its susceptibility to vandalism and the addition of spurious or unverified information,^[14] though scholarly work suggests that vandalism is generally short-lived,^{[15][16]} and an investigation in *Nature* found that the material they compared came close to

Wikipedia



WIKIPEDIA

The logo of Wikipedia, a globe featuring glyphs from many different writing systems

Screenshot

[\[show\]](#)

URL

Wikipedia.org

Slogan

The free encyclopedia that

Success Stories

New features  [Log in / create account](#)



Community **Discuss**

Read

[View source](#)

[View history](#)



[Why create a Wikiversity account?](#)

Wikiversity:Main Page

- Main Page
- Browse
- Recent changes
- Guided tours
- Random
- Help
- Donate

Welcome to Wikiversity

Set learning free

with 13,203 learning resources and growing.



"When the pupil is ready to learn, a teacher will appear." -Zen koan
[\(discuss\)](#)

Welcome

Wikiversity is a Wikimedia Foundation project devoted to [learning resources](#), [learning projects](#), and [research](#) for use in all levels, types, and styles of education from pre-school to university, including professional training and informal learning. We invite [teachers](#), [students](#), and [researchers](#) to join us in creating open educational resources

Collaborative Writing

Teaching

- Improves Communication Skills
- Improves Critical Thinking Skills
- Results in better quality in terms of content and format

Research

- Promote group research
- Multi-disciplinary research
- Improves quality of scholarly outcomes

Collaborative Writing using Wikis

Teaching

- Improves Communication Skills
- Improves Critical Thinking and Brainstorming Skills
- Results in better quality in terms of content and format
- Students contribute to their discipline on WWW
- The contribution of each student can be easily identified → facilitate grading

Research

- Promote group research
- Multi-disciplinary research
- Improves quality of scholarly outcomes
- Efficient editing and reviewing
- Better time and task management
- The Contribution of each author can be easily identified

Collaborative Writing Tools

Browser Based

- All editing tools are available through the web browser.
- Examples
 - Google Docs
 - www.pbworks.com
 - www.wikispaces.com
 - Zoho
 - ScribTex
 - Labetex
 - MonkeyTex

Software Based

- Need to install the software at you local machine.
- Several MS Office plugins:
 - Codoxware
 - Zoho MS office plugins

Google Docs

- docs.google.com
- [You Tube Demo](http://www.youtube.com/docs)
<http://www.youtube.com/docs>



The screenshot shows the Google Docs homepage. At the top left is the "Google docs" logo. Below it is the heading "Create and share your work online with Google Docs". A bulleted list highlights three key features: "Upload your files from your desktop", "Access anywhere", and "Share your work". Below the list is a horizontal bar containing five icons with labels: Documents (blue folder), Spreadsheets (green grid), Presentations (orange cube), Drawings (yellow triangle with circle), and Forms (green document with checkmark). At the bottom left is a blue button that says "Try Google Docs Now", and at the bottom right is a link that says "New Features - Watch the videos".

Google docs

Create and share your work online with Google Docs

- **Upload your files from your desktop:** It's easy to get started and it's free!
- **Access anywhere:** Edit and view your docs from any computer or smart phone.
- **Share your work:** Real-time collaboration means work gets done more quickly.

[Documents](#) [Spreadsheets](#) [Presentations](#) [Drawings](#) [Forms](#)

[Try Google Docs Now](#) [New Features - Watch the videos](#)

New Features

- Real-time collaboration: Multiple users can edit the same document at the same time.
- Chat while you write
- Exercise: Link <http://bit.ly/ck4000>
- Brainstorming
 - Applications of wikis in teaching, research, and office work
 - Advantages and disadvantages

Research Workspace

- www.Pbworks.com
- [Example: Literature Survey](#)

PBWORKS FOR BUSINESS ▾ FOR EDUCATION ▾ FOR PERSONAL ▾

Log in »

JOBS! PBworks is hiring coders and designers!

ONLINE TEAM COLLABORATION

Shared workspaces link colleagues, clients, and partners for better teamwork.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Team Collaboration Customer Extranet Project Management Social Intranet Knowledgebase For Your Industry

Class Projects

- www.Pbworks.com
- [Information Theory](#)
- [Simulation of Comm. Systems](#)

PBWORKS FOR BUSINESS ▾ FOR EDUCATION ▾ FOR PERSONAL ▾

Log in »

JOBS! PBworks is hiring coders and designers!

ONLINE TEAM COLLABORATION

Shared workspaces link colleagues, clients, and partners for better teamwork.

LEARN MORE >

Team Collaboration Customer Extranet Project Management Social Intranet Knowledgebase For Your Industry

Technical Paper Writing

- www.scribtex.com

ScribTeX

Home Blog Support Sign Up Log In

Online LaTeX editor

Create and edit your LaTeX projects online with ScribTeX. Our online LaTeX editor has everything you need to get started straight away, whether you're new to LaTeX or experienced and looking for an easy way to share your work with others.

- ✓ No installation required
- ✓ Compile to PDF with one click
- ✓ Access your work from anywhere
- ✓ Collaborate easily and quickly



Try ScribTeX straight away up by clicking the button below. You'll be logged in a a temporary user with full access, but be sure to sign up for a permanent account if you want to save your work and come back to it.

Technical Paper Writing

- <http://docs.latexlab.org/docs>

latexlab.org Untitled Document not saved

File Edit View Insert Math Format Project Compiler Help

`\documentclass[12pt]{article}`
`\usepackage[utf8]{inputenc}`
`\usepackage{amsmath}`
`\title{\LaTeX}`
`\date{}`
`\begin{document}`
`\maketitle`
`\LaTeX{} is a document preparation system for the \TeX{} typesetting program. It offers programmable desktop publishing features and extensive facilities for automating most aspects of typesetting and desktop publishing, including numbering and cross-referencing, tables and figures, page layout, bibliographies, and much more. \LaTeX{} was originally written in 1984 by Leslie Lamport and has become the dominant method for using \TeX; few people write in plain \TeX{} anymore. The current version is \LaTeXe.`
`% This is a comment; it is not shown in the final output.`
`% The following shows a little of the typesetting power of LaTeX`
`\begin{align}`

L^AT_EX is a document preparation system for the T_EX typesetting program. It offers programmable desktop publishing features and extensive facilities for automating most aspects of typesetting and desktop publishing including numbering and cross-referencing, tables and figures, page layout, bibliographies, and much more. L^AT_EX was originally written in 1984 by Leslie Lamport and has become the dominant method for using T_EX; few people write in plain T_EX anymore. The current version is L^AT_EX 2_ε.

$$E = mc^2$$
$$m = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

Source Preview Split Output

Page 1 of 1

Advantages of Latex-based tools

- Easy and professional formatting
- Automatic numbering of
 - references,
 - figures,
 - equations,
 - Cross-references,
 - lists

Suggested Applications

- Lab Reports:
 - *Usually labs are conducted in groups.*
 - *It will be easy to identify the contribution of each student.*
- Course Projects
- Advisors and Graduate Students: *Editing and Reviewing Thesis and Papers*
- Office Work: *filling forms and collected data from different parties*

References

- An up-to-date list of collaborative writing tools can be found at:
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collaborative_real-time_editor